

Message Text

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ORIGIN CAB-09

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EUR/CE - MR. BEIGEL

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R 192330Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - FUEL-RELATED CAPACITY CUTS

REF: ROME 13611; ROME 13612; STATE 234433

1. ON DECEMBER 14 PANAM, TWA AND ALITALIA REACHED ACCORD ON WINTER SCHEDULE CHANGES DESIGNED TO CONSERVE FUEL. CHANGES ARE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 6 OR 7, 1974, AND ARE TO BE REFLECTED IN WRITTEN AGREEMENT WHICH IS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY GOVERNMENTS. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD PURSUANT TO CAB ORDER 73-11-34 WHICH AUTHORIZED INTER-AIRLINE DISCUSSIONS OF FUEL-RELATED CAPACITY REDUCTIONS. WE ANTICIPATE CAB WILL ENDORSE THE AIRLINE AGREEMENT.

2. U.S. AIRLINES ENVISION A REDUCION IN CURRENT SCHEDULES OF TEN WEEKLY 707 SERVICES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY, SUBSTITUTION OF DAILY 747 FOR 707 ON THE PARIS/ROME SECTOR OF PANAM 114/115, AND SUSPENSION OF ALL CARGO-ONLY SERVICES BY PANAM. ALITALIA PLANS REDUCTION OF TWO

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WEEKLY 747 AND TWO WEEKLY DC-8 SERVICES.

3. THE AIRLINES ALSO MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN DISCUSSION OF CAPACITY ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE SUMMER SEASON, AND PLAN TO MEET AGAIN PRIOR TO JANUARY 31. PANAM AND TWA EACH TABLED PROPOSALS THAT WOULD REDUCE SUMMER 1974 CAPACITY BELOW THAT IN SUMMER 1973, PROVIDED ALITALIA MAKES REASONABLE CAPACITY CUTS.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO RELAY TO GOI ORALLY OUR UNDERSTANDING OF RESULTS OF AIRLINE WINTER CAPACITY TALKS, AND TO DETERMINE IN DISCUSSIONS WHETHER IN VIEW GOI SENSITIVITY ON SUBJECT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR EMBASSY AND/OR U.S. AIRLINES TO FILE AMENDED WINTER SCHEDULES WITH GOI AUTHORITIES. FYI: WE ASSUME THAT IN VIEW FACT ALITALIA HAS ENDORSED OPERATION OF 747 ON ALL SEGMENTS OF PANAM FLIGHTS 114/115 (IN LIEU OF 707 CHANGE OF GAUGE AT PARIS), THAT GOI WILL NOT HOLD US TO PLEDGE GIVEN IN OCTOBER 11 MEMO OF CONSULTATION THAT PANAM WILL OPERATE ONLY 707'S TO AND THROUGH ROME IN MARCH 1974. END FYI.

5. PANAM AND TWA HAVE ALREADY DECIDED, REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF JANUARY TALKS WITH ALITALIA, THAT THEY WILL NOT INCREASE CAPACITY IN U.S.-ITALY MARKET IN SUMMER 1974 ABOVE SUMMER 1973 LEVELS AND, DEPENDING ON OUTCOME AIRLINE TALKS, THESE COULD BE REDUCTIONS. DEPARTMENT THEREFORE QUESTIONS WHETHER IT NECESSARY HOLD EX POST FACTO CAPACITY CONSULTATIONS AS ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED. WE NOTE THAT, IN SUCH CONSULTATIONS, U.S. AIRLINES WOULD NOT BE BOUND TO DO MORE THAN FREEZE SUMMER 1974 CAPACITY AT SUMMER 1973 LEVEL, A RESULT WHICH WILL OCCUR IN ANY EVENT. EMBASSY REQUESTED SEEK FONOFF AGREEMENT TO CANCELLING CONSULTATIONS ON FOREGOING BASIS. WE REALIZE THERE ARE OTHER MATTERS WHICH MIGHT BE ADDRESSED IN CONSULTATIONS, BUT QUESTIONS SUCH AS WORDING OF PARA 5 OF 1970 MOU COULD BE RESOLVED LATER OR VIA EMBASSY CHANNELS. RUSH

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